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Centennial of Engineering and the Steel Strike

Much has been written about the Centennial of Engineering, 1852-1952, which we are celebrating this summer. The century covers the period of existence of the American Society of Civil Engineers whose founding we are commemorating. While progress has undeniably been made in civil engineering during the past hundred years, we find actually, the major progress being made in the other fields of engineering.

While the major part of modern technological advancement has been made since 1852 we must not forget that modern engineering began two hundred years ago in mid-eighteenth century where we date the beginning of the industrial revolution. But engineering progress has been accomplished by the development of engineering materials and it is interesting to note how closely industrial progress during the past two centuries has paralleled developments in the iron and steel industry which is currently doing so much to upset what we consider at least, to be our best way of life. Of course there has been an interdependence among industrial developments, iron and steel included, which cannot be overlooked, but only casual observation shows that progress in the manufacture of iron products has played a major role in technological advance during the period we are considering.

It was in mid-eighteenth century that Abraham Darby first used coke successfully as a fuel in the manufacture of cast iron in the blast furnace. It was in 1740 that Benjamin Huntsman first made steel by the crucible process and in 1783 that Henry Cort introduced grooved roles in the manufacture of wrought iron. All this meant cheaper, more plentiful iron which immediately encouraged the manufacture of safer, larger steam engines for operating pumps in an expanded mining industry, to give only one instance.

One hundred years later or thereabouts steel was first manufactured by the Bessemer process and in 1868 by the Siemens-Martin (open hearth) process. By the introduction of these processes we first have steel in bulk quantities. We could now buy it by the ton rather than by the pound. What this has meant to engineering advancement in all fields is familiar to everyone.

As stated by Carlyle, "Man is a Tool-using animal. Nowhere do we find him without Tools; without Tools he is nothing, with Tools he is all." And while other engineering materials have been used in making the tools of civilization, iron has been the most important one. The

I hold every man a debtor to his profession; from the which as men of course do seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavor themselves by way of amends to be a help and ornament thereunto.

Sir Francis Bacon

strike is a development of the steel industry. Shall we call it a manifestation of engineering progress?

W. A. OLIVER, Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Each week *Electrical World* publishes statistical information concerning electrical power output in the United States. For many years the weekly kilowatt-hour output graph has followed the same characteristic curve—high in January, tapering off gradually to June and then climbing slowly up to a December peak. Every year the curve is almost identical with the preceding year's curve except that it is higher on the chart, indicating normal continued growth in the electrical industry.

If someone were to graph the Illinois Society activities on an annual basis, I strongly suspect that they would follow a similar pattern with a high point of activity at the time of the annual meeting, tapering off to the summer months, and then gradually mounting to a peak at the time of the next annual meeting. The only difference would be that where the electrical industry's output curve moves upwards on the graph each year, we would find the I. S. P. E. curve remaining more or less fixed on the graph because of what seems to be a semi-constant membership figure. Every year for the past half dozen years we have gained about 10% in membership, only to drop an equal number owing to delinquency in dues. What causes this high percentage of loss of membership?

Perhaps we haven't really recognized that the Membership Committee gets new men in the Society, but that maintaining membership is everybody's job. Can we find the solution at our chapter meetings?

Our State committees are functioning admirably in most instances. I note with particular pride the activities of our new Educational Committee which was

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formed this year primarily to further the professional education of our young engineers and our engineering students. They can do a wonderful piece of work—and our work at the chapter level can be most influential in supporting the work of this committee.

Our Ethics and Practice Committee has their teeth in this matter of “flesh peddlers”—where firms of doubtful engineering organization are selling engineering personnel on a cost plus fixed fee basis (usually exorbitantly high). Is it ethical? If not, what tools have we at our command to fight the situation? Or is it a tempest in a teapot? At the N. S. P. E. meeting in Tulsa early in June a resolution condemning the practice was passed after much discussion, but the resolution was sufficiently vague and ambiguous to leave the door open to several interpretations. The big question is: When is the practice of supplying engineers for a fee an accepted and ethical practice and when isn't it? Help the committee along at least to the extent of reporting from the chapter any details of the so-called “flesh peddling” which may come to your attention.

We could call the roll of all the committees if space permitted, and find that each one requires chapter support. Our chapter committees function to serve not only the chapter but the State. Would it be a good idea to review the functions of these committees in our chapters and see if they are actually doing what they were intended to do? And if not, why? We may find a direct correlation between the activities of our chapter committees and the overall annual curve of state activities. We might even find the reason why the graph doesn't move upward each year!

President's Datebook: May 22: Dined this evening with old friends of Central Illinois Chapter, spoke briefly of State functions and learned about weather from Decatur's representative of Ozark Airlines. Happy to meet new resident of Decatur who belongs to New York City Chapter, who read of meeting in local paper and dropped everything to walk in, introduce himself and attend meeting. Expect to see his name on the roster in near future.

June 4: Departed Chicago Airport with George Dement to attend N. S. P. E. meeting in Tulsa. Upon arrival delighted to greet Mr. and Mrs. Van Praag, Mr. and Mrs. Brichler, Mr. and Mrs. Osborn and daughter, Margaret, and Mr. and Mrs. Cordes. Fine representation from Illinois—excellent meeting—fine food and entertainment—full report from our Directors to be published—and if you ever have the opportunity, visit Larry Dresser's Flying D Ranch and eat barbecued Hereford.

A. D. SPICER, *President, I.S.P.E.*

VOX SECRETARII

Assistant Secretary P. E. Roberts

Student Honorary Memberships

During its November meeting, the Board of Direction voted to change the established method of awarding two Honorary Junior Memberships in the Illinois Society.

Beginning this year, two graduating senior engineers in each of the four engineering colleges in Illinois will be awarded student honorary memberships.

There was considerable thought given to the proposal to make the change before it was presented to the Board. In the past, when the graduating seniors were given the award, too often these men received little or no benefit from the recognition except to have their names appear in the commencement program of their respective colleges. When these men left college, they either went into service or accepted positions so far distant that they were unable to participate in Society activity. In other words there was no continuity between their election into the Society and their participation in Society affairs.

The Board of Direction wisely changed the procedure so that now two outstanding engineers who are entering their last year in college are selected from the University of Illinois, Northwestern Institute of Technology, Illinois Institute of Technology, and Bradley University. These eight men will have the opportunity not only to acquire a professional attitude but also will have the chance of making suggestions to the Society as to how to improve relations between the Society and the undergraduates of the four engineering colleges. The Society should begin to benefit during the next year from the fresh viewpoint of these young men.

Some of the new Student Honorary Members have already been selected. When the list of eight is complete the names, college, and specialty will be given to you in these pages.

Engineering Centennial

Plans for the Illinois Society participation in the Centennial of Engineering are nearer completion with each day that passes. A flag with the Illinois Society emblem in the center has been purchased and will hang with the many other flags during the Centennial. Each Chapter Representative has been furnished with a supply of tickets for the banquet which will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Sherman Hotel on Friday, September 5th. A good distribution of tickets in each of the sixteen chapters is necessary to make the affair a success. Pick up your tickets from your Chapter Representative as early as possible.

Miscellany

Secretary and Mrs. Babbitt left Urbana on June 8th, drove to Montreal where they boarded the Empress of Scotland for Edinburgh. They will visit Scotland, Norway, Belgium, France, and England, returning to Urbana on September 3rd. . . . Summer arrived early this year and apparently is here for a long stay. . . . Two hundred new members by September 5th will give the Society real cause to celebrate.

COST OF LIVING INDEX

The correction factor to be applied to the I. S. P. E. Schedule of Minimum Fees and Salaries was 190.4 for May, 1952. The factor is based upon the U. S. Department of Labor's most recent Consumer Price Index.

Board of Direction Meeting and Annual Meeting of The National Society of Professional Engineers

Tulsa, Oklahoma, June 5, 6, 7, 1952

GEORGE L. DeMENT, National Director
R. G. BRICHLER, 1st Alternate National Director

Progress . . . was indicated by all the reports and discussions as the outstanding feature at the Annual Meeting of the National Society of Professional Engineers at Tulsa.

The acceptance of Utah as a State Member of N. S. P. E. raised the total State societies to 39. The Utah Society was founded in 1907 and the affiliation of Utah with the National Society of Professional Engineers is further evidence that we are gaining in national stature as well as in numbers. Mr. Walter Hennock, Utah President, presented a request for membership.

The Interprofessional Relations Committee reported a fine spirit of cooperation is now existing with A. I. A. on a national level. Several matters have been consummated by a joint committee of N. S. P. E. and A. I. A.

During a panel discussion, representatives of the Bar Association and the American Medical Association stated that they were anxious to work with the National Society of Professional Engineers on professional matters of mutual interest.

A resolution was passed requiring N. S. P. E. to combine its influence and prestige with other interested organizations to promote a uniform, high level, surveyors registration act throughout the states of this country, with a view toward qualifying registered surveyors in general for membership in the N. S. P. E.

Progress is evident to all who receive the American Engineer in the improvement in editorial policy. Articles by General Somervell; Senators Cain, Douglas and Malone and Eric Johnston are attracting attention to N. S. P. E. on a nationwide basis. It was also reported that progress is being made in the advertising program. Since December 1951 the monthly volume of advertising has risen from \$205.00 to \$1,049.00.

Special projects of the Public Relations Committee received widespread acceptance. The Executive Research Survey that developed—"How to Improve Engineering-Management Communications"—gained tremendous publicity and acclaim for the National Society of Professional Engineers. Many large companies purchased copies of the report, including such firms as DuPont, Firestone, Bendix, Westinghouse, General Electric and General Motors. This program that has received such favorable comment was financed by donations from members of the N. S. P. E. The funds have been exhausted and two sources of revenue will be explored to obtain additional funds. Such organizations as the Carnegie Foundation will be solicited for funds to carry out a

three-year Public Relations Program. The other method of obtaining funds is for an increase of dues of which part will be for public relations work.

The celebration of Engineers Week in February is growing in magnitude and capturing the imagination of State and local chapters. All professional engineers should take pride in the prestige that is developing from this activity of N. S. P. E. They should do everything possible to promote a greater acknowledgment of engineers by focusing attention on Engineers Week.

Action on the report of the Resolutions Committee indicated the democratic way in which N. S. P. E. functions. Thirteen resolutions were presented and only 5 passed—four were rejected and four were referred to committees for further study.

A resolution was presented to the meeting requiring an amendment to be prepared for presentation at the fall meeting in 1952 which would increase N. S. P. E. dues to \$10.00. The prime reasons for such an increase are the urgent need for an additional Board of Direction Meeting each year, for the continuation of the Public Relations Program and for increased cost of all activities of the Society.

This is an extremely important matter and should have full discussion by the local chapters so that the State officials may instruct the National Directors on this matter when they go to the meeting of the Board of Direction in November.

Ladies' auxiliaries of the National Society of Professional Engineers were very much in evidence at the Annual Meeting and 26 auxiliaries are now active throughout the country.

We were surprised and pleased at the large amount of helpful and constructive discussion by members of the Society who were not National Directors. This is further evidence that N. S. P. E. is a "grass roots" organization.

It seems to us that the character of the meeting somewhat paralleled the activities of the New York Giants baseball team last fall. Bobby Thomson's dramatic home run put the entire team in the World's Series. So it is with the N. S. P. E. The activities of each individual member are of benefit to the entire Society and although we can only bat one at a time, our efforts help the whole team.

Russia has now laid claim to every invention but the lie detector.

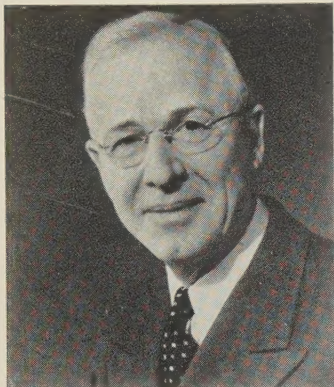
—Kathleen O'Dell

Jesse J. Woltmann

(Prepared by G. L. Farnsworth, Jr.)

The Illinois Society of Professional Engineers wishes to pay tribute to one of its most honored and loyal members, Jesse J. Woltmann.

Jesse J. Woltmann, consulting engineer, died at Bloomington May 2, 1952, after a short illness. He was born at Nokomis, Illinois, October 26, 1888, and received his engineering education at the University of Illinois,



Jesse J. Woltmann

graduating in 1914. He was also awarded the professional degree of Civil Engineer by the same institution in 1926.

His early professional career was spent as city engineer of Anna, Illinois and Nokomis, Illinois, and in drainage work in southern Illinois. During World War I he was employed by Bates and Rogers Construction Company and by the U. S.

Army Engineers on the design of water and sewerage systems for various army cantonments. In 1921 he and Milo C. Taylor formed the consulting engineering firm of Taylor and Woltmann at Bloomington. On Mr. Taylor's death in 1933, he carried on the firm under his own name.

During his lifetime Mr. Woltmann was active in the design of municipal waterworks and sewerage improvements. Among the cities for which he acted as consulting engineer were Bloomington, Normal, Lincoln, Pontiac, Nokomis, Ottawa, Mattoon, Anna, Eureka, Norris City, Gridley, Fairbury, Minonk, Atlanta, Petersburg and Waynesville. During 1944 and 1945 he was Acting Chief of the Illinois State Water Survey Division in Urbana. In 1946 he was appointed a Commissioner of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission.

Mr. Woltmann was very active in the technical societies. He was Past President of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers and was awarded an Honorary Membership by the Society in 1951. He was a Past Chairman and National Director of the Illinois Section of the American Waterworks Association and received the Fuller Award from the Association in 1951. He was also a Past Chairman of the Central Illinois Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and a member of the Central States Sewage and Industrial Wastes Association, the Rotary Club, and the Lutheran Church.

His pleasing personality and his ever-ready willingness to assist in any activities to further the profession will long be remembered by his many friends and associates.

RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF MR. JESSE J. WOLTMANN

WHEREAS, The Central Illinois Chapter of The Illinois Society of Professional Engineers has suffered a great loss in the death of one of the Society's most active members, Mr. Jesse J. Woltmann, on May 2, 1952, and

WHEREAS, He was a member of this Chapter and took a very active part in the affairs of this Society, of which he has been a member since 1916, and

WHEREAS, He served as President of the Society in 1926, and was elected to Honorary Membership in the Society in 1951, and

WHEREAS, He served on numerous committees and made many valuable contributions to the welfare of the Society and to its members, and

WHEREAS, He received national recognition for his efforts in behalf of the Engineering profession,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Central Illinois Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, in recognition of the distinct loss to the Society and to the engineering profession, place this Resolution on its records in grateful acknowledgment of the contributions made by Mr. Woltmann, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the family of Mr. Woltmann, and that a copy also be sent to the State Office of the Society.

Respectfully submitted by the Central Illinois Chapter.

JOHN F. SWEETNAM, *President*

ST. CLAIR CHAPTER PLAYS IMPORTANT PART IN AIR RAID SHELTER SURVEY

An air raid shelter survey for East St. Louis to be started in the immediate future has been announced by Civil Defense Director Laurence Miller. The work will be done by 35 volunteers from the St. Clair County Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, volunteers from women's clubs, and individuals who wish to volunteer their office skills.

Two engineers from the Federal Civil Defense Administration and one from the Illinois Civil Defense office met with members of the East St. Louis Civil Defense Council and the St. Clair Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers. In two meetings, the Federal and State representatives outlined details of the shelter survey.

Miller said that the survey was complex and would include the classifying and grading of buildings in the congested parts of the city, classifying and grading districts in the city, conducting a traffic survey to determine how many people are in the congested parts of town at any one time of day, and balancing available shelter against the need.

According to present plans, the professional engineers will analyze the buildings and districts and the safest areas within the buildings and the volunteer groups will conduct the traffic survey.

If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character. If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.—Chinese proverb.

The Shortcomings of Our Engineering Education

William H. Cooper, Jr., Member N. S. P. E.

It is with considerable diffidence that I approach the discussion of this topic with an audience composed of men who have been trained under the very system which I now propose to criticize. I hope the criticism will be both objective and constructive.

Our engineering education is often objected to on the grounds that recent graduates are poor draftsmen and are not trained to carry out routine work. I will go a step further, and say that they are more familiar with the general theory necessary for the design of a Golden Gate Bridge than they are with the detailing of one of the suspender cable connections. These objections to the education of the embryo engineer do not worry me. We are training these young men to be engineers and not technicians. There are vocational and trade schools which can fill the needs for the sub-professional help necessary to the proper conduct of our work.

My concern is with the true engineering schools which are turning out people who, in my opinion, are well grounded in technical subjects, but are not educated up to the professional standard which will insure the future progress of our profession. They graduate, in most cases, without the vaguest notion of the proper conduct of a business or their responsibilities to their profession and their community.

The professional outlook does not have to be taught in formal courses in ethics or in the humanities which we now hear so much about. Sociology and political science per se are not the answer to the need of the future engineer. Professional awareness will come most easily and most certainly by being exposed to it every day in every professional course. This means, of course, that every instructor must remain fully conscious of his professional responsibilities as an engineer and as a guide to future engineers. All too few of our technical teachers think of themselves as engineers first and as teachers secondly.

The fault lies, I believe, in the administration of our engineering schools by fine scholars. Please don't misunderstand me and feel that I am belittling learning. Such is not the case. But I do say that too little emphasis is placed on practical professional experience in choosing teachers in engineering schools. Too few of our teachers have been exposed to the problems which arise in the rough and tumble of practice. Licensing does not automatically make a man a competent engineer, but since there are now 49 registration laws in the United States, it is at least a way of designating an engineer legally.

Having been denied the opportunity of learning something about the business aspects of his future work

there is shoved into the young engineer's hand upon graduation a code of ethics to which all too few of his colleagues (this being a professional meeting, I won't call them competitors), and none of his clients, subscribe. He is completely bewildered by requests for bids on jobs, by the complete lack of understanding of his work by the public and, above all, by the lack of appreciation by his own employer if he happens to work in industry. He finds that he has entered a profession from which he will not get remuneration commensurate with his education and his experience. He also discovers that he has neither the leisure time nor the money to devote himself to community affairs and to local politics such as school boards and municipal government.

It is no wonder then that so many young men leave the practice of engineering to become equipment and material salesmen or to go into contracting where the profits are so much more attractive.

I submit then that we must begin to police ourselves and begin the professional training of the engineer in our schools as the medical and legal professions have done.

About all I can say for our schools is that they are turning out some very competent engineers in spite of their shortcomings.

BRADLEY UNIVERSITY TO HAVE NEW ENGINEERING BUILDING

Valentine Jobst, Jr. has presented the largest single gift ever made to Bradley University, since the original grants made by the founder, it was announced at the Bradley University commencement exercises by President David B. Owen.

New facilities for the college of engineering will soon be under construction as a result of this gift. Classrooms available in this new building, releasing space elsewhere on the campus, will not only permit other divisions of the university to have better facilities, but should also make possible elimination of some of the temporary buildings now in use.

Need for an engineering building was emphasized by the president in his annual report, as he noted that this year's enrollment of freshman engineering students was 25 per cent greater than that of last year, and that applications for next September are now 50 per cent ahead of what they were a year ago.

Blessed is the man who, having nothing to say, abstains from giving us wordy evidence of the fact.

—George Eliot

News From Chapters

Capital Chapter

A regular meeting of Capital Chapter was held April 22, in the Cafe at the Springfield Municipal Airport. Forty members and guests enjoyed an excellent dinner and a fine talk on Weather Bureau work by Paul Sutton, Section Director for Illinois. He was introduced by President Ryburn, who presided over the business session that followed.

The Treasurer, M. R. Golly, reported that Capital Chapter continues to operate in the black but that payment of dues must be accelerated to hold that happy position, inasmuch as past revenue from the sale of advertising in the "Illinois Engineer" is no longer available.

Chairman Carl Thunman, Sr., reported on the activities of the Civil Defense Committee, saying that several meetings have been held. Work to date includes locating and cataloging construction and disaster-fighting equipment, the formulation of a cooperative program with the Public Utilities, and a plan to organize ten rescue teams of 100 men each. Member J. P. Murphy, Director of Civil Defense, added that the rescue teams would include one unit from Capital Chapter.

President Ryburn stressed the importance of attending the Centennial of Engineering, in Chicago, urging a big turnout from Capital Chapter. Member Claude Morrisett, Chairman of the Intra Society Committee, seconded the appeal and suggested that an individual advertising campaign be undertaken by each member. Morrisett added brief comments on the present status of the Engineers Joint Council.

A. A. Thorsell, Chairman of the Program and Meeting Committee, reported his group firmly believes that the key to good attendance is good programs and that the results, so far this year, prove the soundness of the theory. Programs planned for the future include: A family meeting in July; An old-fashioned "corn boil" in August; A meeting in September, put on entirely by E.I.T.'s; A ladies' night meeting late in the year; The Boys Guidance Committee will have charge of one meeting; A plan for holding one meeting in Jacksonville is under consideration.

Harry Cordes, Member of the National Membership Committee, gave us a fine report on his recent trip to Washington to attend a regular meeting. The Committee is not satisfied with the growth of the Society; it is barely holding even. The Committee feels that the State Societies are somewhat at fault by stressing State membership instead of National membership. The belief that the ties between State Chairmen and Chapter Membership Chairmen are not close enough was also expressed. Lack of interest at Chapter level is a contributing factor. It is the Committee's belief that only the best material in each Chapter should be chosen for the Membership Committee and that it serve as a "Steering Committee,"

enlisting the aid of each individual Club member in a continuous drive for new blood. Cordes' report was well-received. Herb Brantley, Capital Chapter Membership Committee Chairman, heartily endorsed Cordes' report and urged each member to pick up membership blanks and work on securing at least one new prospect during the next month.

Leonard Crawford, Chapter Representative, reported fully and ably on the State Convention. He had prepared a mimeographed report covering official actions, and a copy was distributed to each member present. Mr. Crawford presented a very interesting and thorough general picture of Chapter, State, and National affairs, with respect to the Society; and all who heard his report are better-informed. A vote of thanks was given him for a fine report.

The Membership was advised of the appointment of Member Arthur Kessell as second alternate State Delegate to the National Convention.

The proposition of raising National dues from \$7.00 to \$10.00 per year was explained by President Ryburn. It was tabled until a later meeting when all have had an opportunity to give it more thought.

CHAS. H. MERCHANT, *Secretary*

Champaign County

The Champaign County Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers held its annual ladies night dinner meeting at the Robert Allerton Estate on Thursday evening, May 1, 1952.

Several members and guests drove to the park in time for an inspection trip to the nearby 4-H Club lakes conducted by Benjamin F. Muirheid.

During the short business meeting preceding the dinner the following new officers were elected: W. J. Roberts, President, B. F. Muirheid, Vice President, C. D. Greffe, Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. J. L. Mills was re-elected Junior Member of the Executive Committee and W. D. Mitchell, Chapter Representative.

Following the dinner, C. D. Greffe introduced Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Medbery of Armington, Illinois. Mrs. Medbery, who is an associate of the Photography Society of America, presented her own colored movie "The Glorious Rockies". Emphasizing that the theme and purpose of her movies are conservation and appreciation of the national parks, Mrs. Medbery took her audience by film to the Rocky Mountains in Montana, Alberta and British Columbia. There, one saw in vivid colors, the bighorn sheep, the Rocky Mountain goats, elk and moose and smaller animals. In British Columbia one saw the highest mountain in the Canadian Rockies, Mount Robinson. The Medberys had climbed the north face of the mountain to obtain some vivid shots of Tumbling glacier, one of the large ice masses on the mountain.

C. D. GREFFE, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Lake County Chapter

The monthly meeting of the Lake County Chapter was held on April 16, 1952.

The minutes of the March meeting were read by the Secretary and approved. Mr. C. Danoff, Chairman of the Membership Committee introduced four new members. The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Trombley, Editor of The American Engineer regarding the publicity received by the Lake County Chapter during National Engineer Week.

Mr. Urban Meyer discussed a proposed trip during June through the Abbott Laboratories. An expression of opinion was asked of the members present and it was voted that arrangements should be completed for a trip through the plant starting at 2:00 P. M. on the third Wednesday in June.

The meeting was then turned over to Mr. James Scott, who introduced the speaker of the evening, Prof. Frank Edwards, who is Manager of Engineering Centennial, Inc. He is on leave of absence from his job as head of the Civil Engineering Department of Illinois Institute of Technology. Prof. Frank Edwards' talk covered the coming Engineering Centennial to be held this summer in Chicago.

At the conclusion of Prof. Edwards' talk Mr. Sig Simonsen asked for an explanation of the work and functioning of the Illinois Engineering Council.

L. R. LIETZKE, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Rock River Chapter

Eighty members and guests attended the Ladies Night dinner held at the American Legions Hall at 7:00 P.M., May 9, 1952. Following the turkey dinner served by members of the American Legion Auxilliary, Pres. Hopper introduced the officers of the Chapter and their wives and in addition paid tribute to Mr. Al Ferger who had previously served as Secretary for 15 years.

The program for the evening was the showing of the sound-color movie of the 1952 Rose Bowl Parade and the Rose Bowl Football game. Mr. C. K. Willett, who was instrumental in securing the movie for the evening, was introduced by Pres. Hopper and spoke briefly in regard to the movies.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15, no business being transacted due to the nature of the meeting.

L. F. HOLSTEIN, *Secretary*

Rockford Chapter

The meeting of April 16, 1952, was called to order by President Lyle Porter, who announced his intentions of calling all future meetings to order at the time designated on the program.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read by the Secretary and approved as read. The Treasurer made no report. Three guests, Mr. E. H. Shands, George D. Roper Corp.; Mr. Ed Fauth and Mr. Robert Hansen, Barber Greene Co., Aurora, were introduced.

Under communications, Mr. John Duguid read a letter from State President, Douglas Spicer, in regards to the coming National Meeting to be held in Tulsa the first part of June and the suggested increase of national dues; a copy of which letter is contained in the current issue of the Illinois Engineer. After considerable discussion of the proposed increase of national dues, engineers Arnold Lundgren and Warner Johnson of Freeport were directed to make a further study of the issue and report back to the Chapter at the May 15th Freeport meeting.

Mr. J. J. Graven, Chairman of the Fees and Salaries Committee, made a short report on the organization of his committee. Later John Duguid, Chapter Representative, gave a report of the Board of Directors meetings as held at the recent annual meeting in Peoria, laying stress on the two new committees then formed, viz: Professional Education Committee and Military Affairs Committee. On the latter committee the work will be largely accomplished by correspondence. Gil Henning of Warrington, Florida, formerly of Rockford, and Bill Day of Rockford were appointed on this committee. Mr. Duguid also reported that all local committee chairmen automatically become members of the same state committees.

It was then moved by Engineer Warner Johnson and seconded by Engineer Ed Cunski that the request coming from the Illinois National Bank & Trust Co. of Rockford concerning acceptable signature necessary for the withdrawal of Chapter funds from the Rockford bank by officers of the local society be approved. Motion was made nominating Ed Young as Chapter Junior Representative. It was then moved and seconded that nominations be closed and that the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Ed Young. Motion carried and Ed Young was declared elected Junior Representative of the Rockford Chapter, Illinois Society of Professional Engineers.

John Duguid reported an Editor had been found in the person of William Freeberg, formerly editor of his college paper, for the monthly Bulletin.

It is to be noted here that Jack Laswell donated an easel for the Chapter's Constitution to be mounted on and displayed at each regular meeting.

President Porter thereupon declared the meeting adjourned and turned it over to Bob Stringer who introduced Mr. Jim Erwin, Superintendent of the Gas Division, General Illinois Electric and Gas Co., speaker of the evening.

H. RIEDESEL, *Secretary*

West Central Chapter

The West Central Chapter, Illinois Society of Professional Engineers held its regular May meeting on May 15th. at A.F.&L. Labor Temple, Rock Island, Illinois. The meeting was called at 6:45 p.m. with a fine Chicken dinner, after which members and guests were introduced around the table. The minutes of the April meeting were read and approved.

President Missman called upon Louis Pappmier, Chapter Representative, who discussed in detail the meeting and banquet to be held in Sherman Hotel on Friday, September 5th at 7:00 p. m. and closed by stating he had dinner tickets for the banquet. This subject was taken up by Mr. A. D. Spicer, who urged all who could attend this meeting. The President then called upon Mr. James Palmer, Chairman of the annual State meeting committee, who gave a brief report on the committee's work thus far and concluded by stating that he had contacted Mr. Gilman of the Fort Armstrong Hotel, Rock Island and that they could take care of the Hotel accommodations of the Convention.

The Chair recognized Mr. Spicer who moved that the Chapter hold its annual picnic this year, it was seconded and carried. President Missman appointed Mr. George Lindsey, Lee Osborn and Douglas Spicer to handle the picnic arrangements. In behalf of the committee, Mr. Spicer responded by stating the picnic would probably be held at Midland Country Club, Kewanee, on July 19th.

The President then called upon Mr. Stuart Ogden who introduced Mr. Reed Bryson, U. S. Weather Bureau, University of Wisconsin, who gave a talk on long range weather forecasting.

CLAUDE F. BATES, *Secretary*

Joliet Chapter

The regular monthly meeting of the Joliet Engineers' Club was held at Little Jack's Restaurant, on Plainfield Road, Tuesday evening, May 20, 1952. Following the dinner the meeting was called to order at 8:20 P. M. by President Fred H. Tittsworth. The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were accepted as read.

President Tittsworth announced that it was decided not to hold the Engineers' Brawl this year because of the poor response received from the questionnaire. He also announced that resolutions had been sent to our Senators and Congressmen in Washington about the matter of closing the bridges at Joliet during certain hours of the day, and that replies had been received from each, advising that they would lend their support.

It was announced that our next meeting will be a joint meeting with Du Kane Chapter, at Elgin, Illinois. A. D. Spicer, H. E. Babbitt, and P. E. Roberts have been asked to be our guests. The meeting will be held on October 16, 1952, if and provided the date is agreeable to the State officers.

There being no further business, the remainder of the meeting was turned over to our immediate Past President, Mr. William Gray, who introduced three very interesting movies, titled: "The Eternal Gas Flame", "Natural Gas Pipeline from Joliet to Chicago", and "Building America". A short discussion followed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 p. m.

W. K. WALTZ, *Secretary*

Rockford Chapter

The meeting of May 15, 1952 was called to order by President Lyle Porter who, upon thanking our hosts, the Rockwell Manufacturing Company, for a fine evening and after extending an invitation to any interested engineers to join our Society, then turned the meeting over to J. P. Savage of the Rockwell Manufacturing Company for a question and answer period concerning our trip through the plant. A very lively thirty-minute discussion immediately took place regarding the manufacturing of sub-component parts of heavy armor plate, in which all took part and in which many interesting and technical phases of the work, within government limitations, were reviewed.

Following this phase of the meeting, President Porter again took the chair and proceeded to direct the business affairs of the chapter.

Chapter Representative John Duguid was called upon and after a few preliminary remarks concerning the report of the local committee, which he headed, proposed an answer to State President Spicer's earlier letter about increasing national dues and the trends toward unionization of non-supervisory personnel, draftsmen, and designers, and then presented the following resolution and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Stanley Cutler.

Upon receiving the resolution for consideration and discussion and because of the lateness of the hour, President Porter limited discussion to three-minute periods, which immediately followed. John Wisner wanted to know what the American Society of Tool Engineers was doing about the matter and was informed of an apparent "drifting attitude." Some comments were made about Stone and Webster Company's experience with this matter in the East where unionization of draftsmen, detailers, and designers has taken place and the consequent difficulties experienced. Others commented on the beneficial effect a strong national society would have on matters coming before the National Labor Relations Board, which would ultimately be reflected in the increased fees and salaries as well as interest of industry in granting pay increases to this segment of our national life above the present status.

President Porter then called for a vote on the resolution which was unanimously adopted.

Copies of the resolution are to be distributed to the State officers and chapter representatives of the several chapters. (Resolution is printed below.)

RESOLUTION

Concerning Collective Bargaining by Non-Supervisory
Technical-Professional Employees
and

N. S. P. E.—Report of Special Committee on Dues Increase
Received by Chapter Representative and Presented
to the Rockford Chapter Membership

WHEREAS, the Rockford Chapter has for some time been observing and noting the steadily increasing collective bargaining activities by certain organizations directing their efforts toward

non-supervisory technical-professional employees, and

WHEREAS, the Rockford Chapter has been constantly expending great effort in enrolling new members in N.S.P.E. and I.S.P.E. and frequently, when contacting prospects belonging to the non-supervisory technical professional we hear the statement, "I am a draftsman, designer, have been over a period of years—registration is not required in my classification, nor do I aspire to professional registration. I would like to belong to I.S.P.E. but they do not have a place for me," and

WHEREAS, the Rockford Chapter is conscious of the *great number of unattached non-supervisory sub-professional engineering employees* that exist and are considered as fair game or prey by collective bargaining organizations, and

WHEREAS, The Rockford Chapter acknowledges the need of N.S.P.E. and I.S.P.E. for a greater reservoir of funds to carry on the work of attaining professional unity and recognition, and

WHEREAS, the Rockford Chapter believes that N.S.P.E. and I.S.P.E. can create a membership classification that would cover the non-supervisory technical professional employees and bring in this great number of technical employees, giving them *professional representation*, a voice in Chapter levels, and

WHEREAS, the Rockford Chapter believes that making available a class of membership to fit the above technical men will supply enormous needed membership strength, greatly swell the treasury sufficiently for the N.S.P.E. to proceed on a more powerful scale especially in its legislative activities for recognition and unity, provide a long step toward achieving unity in all branches of the profession, diminish collective bargaining activity, give impetus toward achieving recognized professional status and strengthen the economic status of the engineer and his technicians, and

WHEREAS, the Rockford Chapter believes the foregoing is a more realistic approach to the matter of increasing the financial structure of the National Society and consequently the financial structure of the entire organization from National, State and Chapter level and, at the same time, forging a powerful tool toward accomplishing the aims of the society as a whole, rather than increasing National dues. In other words, let us build additions to the machine for greatly increased horsepower rather than overtax the present machine,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in view of the nearness of National convention time in Tulsa and the obvious quick action needed to head off the collective bargaining activities now so obvious and with its apparent implications, that the Official Board of Directors of the Illinois Society of Engineers be made acquainted with our thinking on this matter; and

That the President of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers endorse this paper to the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers National Director for presentation to the National Society of Engineers Board of Directors at the National Society Convention in Tulsa this coming June with a request for immediate action to carry out or work out the intent of this resolution at the National level; and

That the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers become active in carrying or working out the intent of this resolution at the State level.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyle B. Porter, President, Rockford Chapter,
Illinois Society of Professional Engineers
Royce Johnson, Vice-President
H. A. Riedesel, Secretary
John G. Duguid, Chapter Representative

(See Report of Capital Chapter meeting of May 27, 1952.)

The chicken dinner at the Florence dining room held earlier in the evening was a scrumptious affair and the chicken was tender and plentiful. To Warner Johnson

and Harper Millard and their associates, we take off our hats in grateful salutation for a fine turn-out and dinner meeting well done.

President Porter then adjourned the meeting, calling the attention of the group to the June meeting to be held at Rockford at the Illinois Central Electric and Gas Company Auditorium, Tuesday, June 17. Mr. Olaf Begrup is the sponsor.

The Rockford Chapter, Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, urgently recommends that the following resolution be endorsed by the President of Illinois Society of Professional Engineers for immediate action at the National Convention in Tulsa and a later confirming by the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers Board of Directors at its next meeting.

HENRY A. RIEDESEL

Capital Chapter

The meeting was called to order on May 27, 1952 by President Ryburn, following a fine dinner and an entertaining sound picture showing the highlights of the 1951 World Series. The meeting was held in a private room at The Mill, Springfield, Illinois. Twenty-seven members and guests were present.

Dave Abbott, chairman of the Civics Affairs Committee and Capital Chapter representative on the Citizens Committee for the Public Schools, reported on their last meeting, at which a survey of Springfield schools by the Education Department of the University of Illinois was urged. The survey would determine future plans for expansion and improvements, and can be done by the University for about \$4,000. Funds to defray the expense of the survey are now being solicited.

Carl Thunman, vice-president of Capital Chapter and chairman of the Civil Defense Committee, was recognized by President Ryburn for the work his committee is doing compiling an inventory of construction equipment, in this area, that would be available in case of a national emergency. An announcement by the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, to the effect that the "Alert America" convoy is scheduled to appear in Springfield June 18 to 21 with public showings at the State Armory, was read by the secretary.

Glen Rynearson, chairman of the Legislation Committee, asked all members for procedure and program suggestions for the forthcoming Legislature dinner, to which members of the Illinois Legislature will be invited as guests of I. S. P. E. members.

President Ryburn again urged a good representation from Capital Chapter at the September 7 dinner meeting of I. S. P. E. and N. S. P. E., in Chicago.

Discussion was opened by President Ryburn on the proposed increase in N. S. P. E. dues from \$7.00 to \$10.00 per year. Mr. Crawford answered Mr. Hendrick's question as to why the increase was needed by saying that present dues were insufficient to permit the National Society to function on the broad basis necessary for the

good of the organization. William Russell spoke in favor of the increase and outlined the need for more aggressive action on the part of the National body in the interests of all professional engineers. It was moved by Russell and seconded by Kessell that Capital Chapter go on record as approving an advance in N. S. P. E. annual dues from \$7.00 to \$10.00 (E. I. T. dues excepted). After considerable more discussion, a written secret ballot was taken. The count was: Yes 15, No 10. The secretary was instructed to notify the State Secretary of this action.

President Ryburn read a communication from the Rockford Chapter, directed to Chapter Representative Crawford and transmitting a resolution for setting up a new National membership classification for nonprofessional (nonregistered, subprofessional) technicians. Abbott commented that, until a higher percentage of qualified registered engineers become members of the Society, he was against such action. Several other members expressed similar opinions. It was further pointed out that a membership classification in the State Society, designated as "Affiliate," is now available for those people. It was moved by Abbott and seconded by Murphy that Capital Chapter go on record as opposing the resolution and that the chapter secretary so advise the State Secretary. Motion carried.

Walter Hanson told how the Texas Societies are co-operating with educators to "sell" engineering to high school students, in an attempt to alleviate the shortage of engineers. He favored a vocational guidance program in all high schools, counseled by engineers, to stimulate interest in the profession. He asked for an expression of opinion from other chapter members. George Baker spoke in favor of encouraging students to take up the engineering profession, saying that the theory of scarcity was unsound. William Russell pointed out that outstanding engineers are constantly being lost to the profession by being absorbed in business, and strongly recommended any activity to promote the profession.

CHAS. H. MERCHANT, *Secretary*.

Central Illinois Chapter

The April meeting of the Central Illinois Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers was held at the Surrey Cafe, 134 East Prairie Street, at 6:30 p. m. Thursday evening, April 24, 1952, there being 37 members in attendance.

A motion was made by Earl Cooper and seconded by John Askrin that a questionnaire be mailed to all National members, by the secretary, in regard to an increase in dues to the National Society. Motion carried.

The speaker for the evening was Mr. H. E. Hudson of the Engineering Division of the Illinois State Water Survey who gave a talk on "Radar, Tomorrow's Rain Gauge."

J. F. NOLAN, *Secretary*

RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF MR. LEWIS N. FISHER, C. E.

WHEREAS, The Central Illinois Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers has suffered a great loss in the death of a valuable member, Mr. Lewis N. Fisher, on April 25, 1952; and

WHEREAS, He was a veteran member of this Chapter and an outstanding citizen of this community; and

WHEREAS, His reputation as a Structural Engineer and Builder was known throughout the Middle West; and

WHEREAS, His ability, ingenuity and integrity was a credit to our Society and the Engineering profession; and

WHEREAS, We desire to give recognition to his unselfish technical aid to numerous young engineers starting in their professional life;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Central Illinois Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers place this resolution on its records in grateful acknowledgment of the contributions made by Lewis N. Fisher to this Society and the Engineering profession; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of Mr. Fisher, and also a copy to the State Office of the Society.

Respectfully submitted by the Central Illinois Chapter.

JOHN F. SWEETNAM, *President*

DuKane Chapter

The dinner meeting of May 14, 1952 was attended by 42 members and guests, most of them members of the Elgin Chapter of the Illinois Association of Highway Engineers with whom we had scheduled a joint meeting.

During the business meeting, the minutes of the April meeting were voted not to be read, and President Dreier made the following comments:

(1) Urging all engineers to attend the Engineering Convocation in Chicago from the 3d to the 13th of September and calling special attention to the 7 p. m. dinner at the Palmer House on Friday, September 5th, with table reservations for groups of eight possible.

(2) Pointing out the possibility of a local area refresher course for the PE examination, which will be further discussed at our June meeting.

(3) Reminding us all that this is the opportune time of the year to help guide high school graduates into engineering curricula.

President Dreier introduced Past President Virgil E. Gunlock whose talk revolved about the subject of "Civil Defense," a field in which he has considerable experience.

GEORGE M. BOOTH JR., *Secretary*

Madison County Chapter

The April 8, 1952 meeting was called to order by C. H. Sheppard, president, at 8:00 p. m. in the conference room of the Alton Boxboard Factory. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

W. E. Willis and George Shanahan gave reports on the meeting of the State Society which was held in Peoria. Mr. Willis announced that the Madison County and St. Clair Chapters also plan to sponsor the Annual Meeting two years hence.

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Committee reports were given by Harold Schwaab for Membership, John Knotterus for Public Affairs, and John Jehle for Publicity.

It was announced that the May meeting will be held at the Edwardsville Gun Club. Charles Gillham of Western Cartridge will speak on Small Arms.

An invitation was received from the St. Clair County Chapter to attend their meeting Friday, April 18th, at the Elks Club in Belleville. Frank Barker, Chief Engineer of the Illinois Division of Highways, will be the principal speaker.

J. D. Voorhees, program chairman, then introduced Jack Barnes of the Motorola, Inc. who discussed radio communications. After the program, the meeting adjourned to the cafeteria for refreshments.

March Meeting

The March 11, 1952 meeting was called to order by C. H. Sheppard, president, at 8:00 p. m. at the office of the Blast Furnace Division of the Granite City Steel Co. with the largest attendance of the current year. There were 33 members and visitors present.

The business meeting approved the minutes of the previous meeting, received the report that the time for promoting the State Meeting in our area is next year instead of this year, and passed the motion made by Shanahan and seconded by Graham that the Constitution and By-laws of the chapter be reproduced and furnished to each member.

Mr. George Thatcher then showed pictures of the plant, giving an explanation of the work carried on there and described those things of interest that could not be seen during a night tour, after which we were conducted through the plant.

After a tour highlighted by watching the tapping of a blast furnace, members of the tour were guests of the Granite City Steel Co. at their new cafeteria, where refreshments were served.

M. B. CORLEW, *Secretary*

Lake County Chapter

The regular monthly meeting of the Lake County Chapter was held at the Swedish Glee Club House Wed-

nesday evening, May 21, 1952. Thirty-eight members and guests were served dinner promptly at 7:00 p. m.

The business meeting was called to order at 8:00 p. m. The minutes of the April meeting were read by the secretary and approved.

Mr. Urban Meyer announced the details of a trip through Abbott Laboratories to be held on Wednesday, June 25, 1952. Our chapter is expected to assemble at Abbott about 1:15 p. m. in order that we may be served lunch promptly at 1:30 p. m.

President Cyril Drew reported on the details of the 67th Annual Meeting at Peoria. He stated that the secretary had available a copy of the annual report.

President C. Drew stated that we had been requested to report the chapter's reaction towards increasing the dues for National from \$7.00 to as much of the constitutional limit of \$10.00. Sixteen National members were in attendance at the meeting. After considerable discussion by various members covering such questions as

- (1) Has National presented needs for increase?
- (2) If National is operating on a deficit, how great?
- (3) What would be effect of increased numbers of National members?

which were not satisfactorily answered, Mr. Sidney Danoff moved that the National dues not be increased at this time in view that not enough data have been presented to justify the need; seconded by Mr. William Hooper. Sixteen National members voted yes on this motion.

Mr. Sidney Danoff discussed possible ways of increasing usefulness of the Society and also making it easier to obtain new members. Among the points mentioned were

- (1) Better and more detailed publicity of chapter meetings.
- (2) Ways to obtain greater meeting attendance.
- (3) Better information on membership and its advantage.

Mr. William Hooper reported on a possible proposed amendment being discussed by the Capital Chapter which he read as transmitted. This was discussed in great detail by many members but no action was taken.

The meeting was turned over to the program chairman, Mr. Urban Meyer. He announced Ladies' Night for the September meeting. He introduced Comdr. R. H. Smethells of the U. S. Navy who presented and later answered questions on a Navy movie. The movie, "They Came to An Island," is a 39-minute film showing the varied and extensive work of the Sea Bees.

President C. Drew appointed Roy W. Morris as Chapter Junior Representative.

I. R. LIETZKE, *Secretary-Treasurer*

A LAYMAN LOOKS AT ENGINEERS

By Harry Press, Sales Dept.
Kay Manufacturing Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.

What is an engineer? Does this sound like a foolish question? Well, it is a question many laymen are asking today. There was a time when the answer to that question was self evident. Everyone knew that if a man termed himself an engineer he had to be a graduate of a college or university, he had a degree in his field and he was performing a necessary and estimable task.

In recent years, however, the field of engineering has become more diversified. Many new types of engineers have made their appearance. Some of these are legitimate engineers, trained for specific work required by our present complex civilization. But many, oh so many, are nothing but what, for want of a better term, I call pseudo engineers.

These are the people who, without any particular education or training, have taken to terming themselves engineers. We have all met some of these self styled engineers. There is the lad who formerly was a salesman behind a counter. Having been promoted to an outside selling job, he now blossoms out as a "sales engineer." Or the order clerk, who routes orders through the factory. One day you discover that he is a "production engineer." And so many others, too numerous to classify.

The pernicious effect of this situation is that the average layman is not qualified, nor is he inclined to bother, to distinguish the real from the fraud. Hence, if he is so unfortunate as to find that most of his contact with engineers is with the latter type, he is apt to wind up with a permanent distaste for engineers per se. Eventually, in the eyes of a large part of the public, engineers in general will have to bear the stigma of these fakes.

Unless the engineering profession takes steps to curb the free and easy use of the title "engineer" it will, in the near future, find more and more people asking, in genuine bewilderment, "What is an engineer?"—New York Professional Engineer.

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